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Two thousand and five hundred delegates from farmers' organizations in Washington, Oregon and Idaho in session at Seattle on June 13 subscribed \$20,000 toward a fund for building a temple of agriculture in Washington, D. C.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of £200,000 is being provided by the Victorian government to enable Melbourne University to complete its buildings.

THE Goldsmiths' Company has given £5,500 to the University of Cambridge for the purpose of extending and equipping the department of metallurgy.

DR. LEVERETT D. BRISTOL has been elected dean and professor of bacteriology and public health of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Memphis.

DR. L. J. GILLESPIE, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, has been appointed professor of physical chemistry in Syracuse University.

FREDERICK RASMUSSEN, who has been appointed Pennsylvania state secretary of agriculture, has been succeeded in the professorship of dairy husbandry at the Pennsylvania State College by Andrew A. Borlaw, of the extension department.

At the University of Chicago John A. Parkhurst, of the department of astronomy and astrophysics and Elbert Clark and George W. Bartelmez, of the department of anatomy, have been promoted to associate professorships.

PROFESSOR C. R. MARSHALL, professor of materia medica and therapeutics, in the University of St. Andrews has been appointed Regius professor of materia medica in the University of Aberdeen, vacant by the resignation of Professor Theodore Cash.

DR. BOON, has been appointed to the chair of chemistry at Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh.

MR. R. W. H. HAWKEN has been appointed to succeed Professor A. J. Gibson as professor of engineering in the University of Queensland.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE VALLEY OF TEN THOUSAND SMOKES

UNDER the caption "The Katmai National Monument" in the issue of *SCIENCE*, January 3, several observations and comparisons are made relative to this wonderful natural phenomenon. Among these occurs the following:

Rock strata superheated since the great eruption underlie Katmai near enough to the surface to turn to instant steam the spring and drainage water of many a surrounding mile of foot hills. Thus originates the steam which bursts from the myriad valley vents.

An acquaintance with this remarkable volcanic area would convince the writer of the above observations that his explanations are quite inadequate to explain the phenomena occurring there and an examination of the gases evolved would still further convince the writer that he was dealing with something much more closely related to the molten magma than an area of residual superheated strata—presumably so heated in 1912 and slowly cooling off. Although steam is the principal constituent of the emanations yet there are many vents in which steam is but a small percentage of the issuing gases, the main portion of the vapors being highly corrosive acids, volatile metallic chlorides, sulphides and oxides.

It is quite true that the local surface drainage disappears as it attempts to find its way down the valley and some of the lesser conspicuous features of this valley are dumps of volcanic debris vomited out from the throats of vents into which the surface storm drainage had poured it. But the most active area of the whole valley lies right on the peninsular axis itself and no one seeing the vast quantities of vapors being evolved would for a moment consider their origin to have been up-grade surface infiltration from the distant "foot-hills."

The peninsular axis is not yet in equilibrium with the volcanic forces. In 1917 avalanches of rocks were being precipitated down the perpendicular face of Falling Mountain. Gases were issuing from crevices distributed from the bottom to the top 2,000 feet above